

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method for tensioning and positioning a fiber optic cable, comprising:
2 securing a first portion of the fiber optic cable to a first support;
3 securing a second portion of the fiber optic cable to a second support; and
4 creating a gravity-assisted moment arm with the second support to uniformly and
5 repeatably tension and position the fiber optic cable between the first and second supports.

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1 2. A method for tensioning and positioning a fiber optic cable as recited in claim 1,
2 wherein the gravity-assisted moment arm is created by rotating a cam contacting the second support
3 to rotate the second support due to its weight.

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5 3. A method for tensioning and positioning a fiber optic cable as recited in claim 2,
6 further comprising, prior to securing the first portion of the fiber optic cable, rotating the cam to
7 rotate the second support in a direction opposite to the direction that uniformly and repeatable
8 tensions and positions the fiber optic cable.

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1 4. A method for tensioning and positioning a fiber optic cable as recited in claim 1,
2 wherein the first portion of the fiber optic cable is secured to the first support with a first clamp.

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1 5. A method for tensioning and positioning a fiber optic cable as recited in claim 1,
2 wherein the second portion of the fiber optic cable is secured to the second support with a second
3 clamp.

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1 6. A method for tensioning and positioning a fiber optic cable as recited in claim 2,
2 wherein the second support comprises a rotatable body portion integrally connected to a leg portion,
3 the leg portion contacting the cam to rotate the second support.

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1 7. A method for tensioning and positioning a fiber optic cable as recited in claim 1,
2 further comprising aligning a glass optical fiber portion of the fiber optic cable with an alignment
3 mechanism provided between the first and second supports.

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1 8. A method for forming a refractive-index grating in a fiber optic cable, comprising:
2 securing a first portion of the fiber optic cable to a first support;
3 securing a second portion of the fiber optic cable to a second support;
4 creating a gravity-assisted moment arm with the second support to uniformly and
5 repeatably tension and position the fiber optic cable between the first and second supports; and
6 etching grating lines in the fiber optic cable after the fiber optic cable has been
7 uniformly and repeatably tensioned and positioned.

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1 9. A method for forming a refractive-index grating in a fiber optic cable as recited in
2 claim 8, wherein the gravity-assisted moment arm is created by rotating a cam contacting the second
3 support to rotate the second support due to its weight.

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5 10. A method for forming a refractive-index grating in a fiber optic cable as recited in
6 claim 9, further comprising, prior to securing the first portion of the fiber optic cable, rotating the

7 cam to rotate the second support in a direction opposite to the direction that uniformly and repeatable
8 tensions and positions the fiber optic cable.

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1 11. A method for forming a refractive-index grating in a fiber optic cable as recited in
2 claim 8, wherein the first portion of the fiber optic cable is secured to the first support with a first
3 clamp.

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1 12. A method for forming a refractive-index grating in a fiber optic cable as recited in
2 claim 8, wherein the second portion of the fiber optic cable is secured to the second support with a
3 second clamp.

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1 13. A method for forming a refractive-index grating in a fiber optic cable as recited in
2 claim 9, wherein the second support comprises a rotatable body portion integrally connected to a leg
3 portion, the leg portion contacting the cam to rotate the second support.

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1 14. A method for forming a refractive-index grating in a fiber optic cable as recited in
2 claim 8, further comprising aligning a glass optical fiber portion of the fiber optic cable with an
3 alignment mechanism provided between the first and second supports.

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1 15. A method for calibrating a fiber optic cable tensioning and positioning apparatus
2 having a first support and a second support rotatable relative to the first support, comprising:
3 securing a first portion of the fiber optic cable to the first support;
4 securing a second portion of the fiber optic cable to the second support;

5 measuring a diffraction grating provided in the untensioned fiber optic cable;

6 creating a gravity-assisted moment arm with the second support to uniformly tension

7 the fiber optic cable between the first and second supports;

8 measuring the diffraction grating provided in the uniformly tensioned fiber optic

9 cable; and

10 comparing the measured diffraction grating of the untensioned fiber optic cable to the

11 measured diffraction grating of the tensioned fiber optic cable to calculate the tension applied to the

12 fiber optic cable.